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OPLA~Notes

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for the Maine State Legislature*

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Newsletter Greetings

This edition of OPLA~Notes includes articles that provide an overview of urban sprawl and smart growth, including a summary of legislative initiatives recently passed by the Maine Legislature and other states in the areas of sprawl and smart growth. The newsletter also includes a summary of the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling on the Federal Food and Drug Administration's ability to regulate tobacco products. Lastly, the newsletter includes a listing of Executive Orders issued by the Governor during fiscal year

2000 and a listing of studies approved by the Legislature for the current interim.



Sprawl and Smart Growth: An Overview of the Issues and States' Responses

What is Sprawl and Smart Growth?

In recent years, there has been a growing recognition nationwide that "urban sprawl" is an unattractive and costly development approach. Sprawl is generally defined as "low-density, automobile-dependent development beyond the edge of service and employment areas that separates where people live from where they shop, work, recreate and educate." The term was first coined after World War II when high speed, multi-laned highways were developed to allow workers to move away from cities to smaller towns 20-30 miles from their workplace because the suburban communities were less densely settled than the urban areas. However, businesses were the next ones to move to the outskirts of the city in order to avoid high rent of downtown office buildings. In recent years, many communities have experienced the development of larger homes and commercial land plots further from the densely populated areas of inner cities. The movement of residents and commercial businesses away from inner cities has had a significant impact on the social and economic vitality of downtown areas and service centers, as well as on the sustainability and productivity of rural land.

The State Planning Office undertook a study of sprawl in Maine and released its report entitled “The Cost of Sprawl” in 1997. The report found that over the last 30 years the fastest growing towns in Maine have been new suburbs 10 to 15 miles away from metropolitan areas. The study concluded that sprawling development in Maine costs the state about \$50 million a year. The study further found that sprawl is damaging wildlife habitats, farmlands and rural lifestyles and increasing property taxes because towns are finding that the tax revenue from new houses and development are not paying for schools and other town services that new homeowners require.

Further consequences of unplanned, rapid growth have included:

- Increased traffic congestion;
- Longer commutes;
- Dependence on gasoline and automobiles;
- Increased school populations;
- Increased air and water pollution;
- Decreased open space and wetlands; and
- Decreased populations in city centers.

Many states and communities have enacted smart growth initiatives in order to reverse urban sprawl. According to a 1999 report by the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University, in 1998 Smart Growth type legislation was present on 240 state and local ballot initiatives nationwide, with a 72 percent approval rate. Smart growth can generally be defined as “high-density development that has the goal of using land efficiently, minimizing infrastructure development and maintenance costs for communities, reducing dependence on automobiles by providing a range of transportation choices and promoting the long-term vitality of inner cities and neighborhoods.”

Growth Management in Maine

Before the 1970s, there was little review of development projects in Maine. Statewide review of development projects was adopted in the early 1970s with individual towns developing comprehensive plans to provide a basis for ordinances and how municipalities envisioned growth. Another measure enacted by the Legislature during this time was the Site Location of Development Law (38 MRSA §481). The purpose of this law is to provide a flexible and practical means by which the State can exercise control in the location of state, municipal, quasi-municipal, educational, charitable, commercial and industrial developments in order

to ensure that such developments are located in areas that will have a minimal adverse impact on both the natural surroundings and the health and safety of residents.

In 1987, the Legislature established a Growth Management Act (30-A MRSA, chapter 187) that contained state goals that municipalities were required to meet through their comprehensive plans. The Act established tiered deadlines that towns were to follow in developing and adopting their comprehensive plans. The fastest growing towns were placed in the first tier and were required to complete their plans before the smaller towns that were placed in the second and third tiers.

However, in 1991, reduced state budgets resulted in amending the requirements of the Act and eliminating most of the funding for municipal planning grants. The tiered deadlines were replaced by a flat 2003 deadline for any community choosing to regulate land uses beyond shoreland zoning and subdivision. The deadline specifies that any land use ordinance not consistent with a comprehensive plan adopted according to the Growth Management Law is void after January 1, 2003.

In 1994, the Legislature increased municipalities’ flexibility for meeting statutory goals and offered incentives for participating in the growth management program.

Since 1995, the focus of the growth management program has shifted toward encouraging the efficient use of municipal services while avoiding development sprawl. To date, 326 of 496 municipalities have received planning grants and 178 towns have adopted comprehensive plans consistent with the Growth Management Act.

Legislative Task Force

The Task Force to Study State Office Building Location, Other State Growth-related Capital Investments and Patterns of Development was established by the 119th Legislature through Resolve 1999, chapter 63. The duties of the Task Force were to review legislation carried over from the First Regular Session of the 119th Legislature relating to patterns of development in the following areas:

- The role of state office buildings in the continued viability of downtown service centers;

- Fiscal policies that may push rural lands out of productive use;
- The coordination of state and local urban transportation planning;
- The streamlining of local and state land use rules and regulations;
- Policies to encourage efficient neighborhood and economic development in growth areas; and
- The productive use of farms and woodlands and the preservation of open space around urbanizing areas

The Task Force offered recommendations and suggested legislation in 4 broad areas: Land use/rural lands; state investment policy/downtowns; transportation policies; and fiscal and taxation policies.

Maine's Sprawl and Smart Growth Initiatives

During the Second Regular Session of the 119th Legislature, various initiatives relating to smart growth and sprawl were considered. The following sprawl-related initiatives concerning land use, transportation and taxation were enacted by the Legislature:

1. LD 2600 (Public Law 1999, chapter 776), "An Act to Implement the Land Use Recommendations of the Task Force on State Office Building Location, Other State Growth-related Capital Investments and Patterns of Development," addresses state capital investment policy, downtowns, service centers and school siting.

- It requires certain state growth-related capital investments such as construction or extension of utility lines, development of industrial or business parks, public service infrastructure and public facilities, state office buildings, state courts and other state civic buildings and newly constructed multi-family rental housing, to be located in locally designated growth areas as identified in local comprehensive plans. If there is not a comprehensive plan, such capital investments are required to occur in areas with public sewers capable of handling the proposed development, in areas identified as census-designated places or in compact areas of urban compact municipalities. There are exceptions to this requirement for certain projects that are necessary to remedy threats to public health or

safety or that, because of their nature, must be located in other areas.

- It requires the State's Bureau of General Services to develop site selection criteria for state facilities that give preferences to priority locations in service centers and downtowns.
- It establishes the Downtown Leasehold Improvement Fund, to assist agencies in securing suitable space in downtowns by providing for capital improvements to real property leased by the State in downtowns. Although this Fund was established, no money was appropriated for it.
- It requires the State Board of Education to adopt rules by February 1, 2001 relating to the siting of new school construction projects that receive state funding.
- It establishes the Maine Downtown Center to encourage downtown revitalization. It appropriates \$100,000 to provide matching funds for grants to be used to revitalize downtowns.
- It establishes, but does not fund, a downtown improvement loan program for municipalities.
- It requires the Department of Economic and Community Development to develop an investment policy that will provide means to improve the condition of downtown properties and infrastructure to meet the multiple-use needs of downtown.
- It requires the State Planning Office to develop model land use ordinances that accommodate smart growth design standards and provide for flexibility in zoning regulations to allow for traditional, compact development in designated growth areas and to preserve and revitalize existing neighborhoods.

2. LD 2510 (Public Law 1999, chapter 731), "An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditure of State Government and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary for the Proper Operations of State Government," appropriates money for several initiatives relating to sprawl and smart growth.

- It provides for additional state-municipal revenue sharing for municipalities with a higher-than-average property tax burden by appropriating \$3.6 million in one-time funds to municipalities with disproportionate tax burdens to be distributed in June 2001.

- It appropriates \$1.7 million for planning grants to municipalities, grants to regional councils to provide technical assistance to municipalities, grants to municipalities for land use plan implementation and plan updates and alternative growth management initiatives and pilot projects.
- It reduces the withdrawal penalty under the Farmland Tax Law to the minimum required by the Constitution of Maine in Article 9, section 8.

3. Senate Paper 1090, Joint Order Establishing the Task Force to Study Growth Management provides for the further study of sprawl and smart growth by the Legislature.

- The task force is charged with reviewing the state's growth management laws with the goal of improving the laws to make them more responsive to the issues of sprawl. The task force is also charged with examining the State's enabling legislation for impact fees and the State's municipal subdivision law. In addition to the Legislative Task Force, there are several other groups examining the issues of sprawl and growth management. These include the State Planning Office's on-going review of the growth management law, the Eco-Eco Maine Smart Growth Forum based at the College of the Atlantic and the Governor's Cabinet Committee on Smart Growth.

4. LD 2550 (Public Law 1999, chapter 676), "An Act to Ensure Cost Effective and Safe Highways in the State," addresses transportation issues related to sprawl, including access management, planning, transit funding and innovative transportation projects.

- It establishes a new process for permitting new driveways, entrances and approaches on Maine's major highways.
- It requires the Department of Transportation to provide assistance to municipalities on road planning, road maintenance, sidewalks and neighborhood involvement to assist them in addressing smart growth issues by preserving traditional downtowns, walkable communities and compact neighborhoods.
- It requires the Department of Transportation to begin a strategic planning process relating to transit, including marketing of transit, innovative financing of transit projects, connec-

tivity to airports and rail, as well as other issues.

- It requires the Department of Transportation to work with other agencies to identify funding sources for innovative transit and transportation projects that address sprawl and air quality issues.

5. LD 2669 (Public law 1999, chapter 757), "An Act to Implement the Tax Policy Recommendations of the Task Force Created to Review Smart Growth Patterns of Development," addresses tax issues related to sprawl and smart growth:

- It provides for a refund of sales tax paid on electricity purchased for use in commercial agricultural production, commercial fishing and commercial aquaculture production.

Other States' Sprawl and Smart Growth Initiatives

- **Arizona** - In 1998, Arizona enacted the Growing Smarter Act, which requires municipal and county growth and transportation plans to identify areas suitable for many kinds of transportation including mass transit. The Act also encourages mixing residential and commercial development to lessen the distances between jobs and housing that have pushed traffic further out into rural areas and to promote financially sound infrastructure expansion.
- **Georgia** - Georgia created the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority in 1999 in response to the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) withholding federal highway funds because metropolitan Atlanta was violating clean air standards. The new 15-member board has the authority to plan, construct and operate public transportation facilities in the 13 county area; issue \$1 billion in revenue bonds to finance a public transportation system; and deny permits for developments that overburden existing transportation systems.
- **Florida** - In 1999, Florida enacted the Urban Infill and Redevelopment Act, which provides for financial incentives to encourage urban redevelopment. Among the incentives offered for developers are lower transportation impact

fees for development that encourages public transit and assistance in meeting the state's requirement that mandates infrastructure be planned or in place "concurrent" with development approval.

- **Maryland** – In 1997, Maryland enacted the "Smart Growth Neighborhood Conservation Initiative", a package of several smart growth initiatives that aim to direct state-funded projects to revitalize older developed areas, preserve some of Maryland's valuable resources and open space lands and integrate land use planning and financial incentives to channel new development into areas that can support it. Through a process of local and regional planning, counties identify specific areas where state development funding is to be directed. In addition, Maryland precludes financial assistance for economic development projects that do not conform to local comprehensive plans. Economically disadvantaged communities are also assisted through loans and grants to foster economic development projects. In addition, the Maryland General Assembly also approved funding for the purchase of conservation easements in rural areas and created a job creation initiative that allows a tax credit to small businesses that create at least 25 new jobs in priority funding areas.
- **Tennessee** - In 1999, Tennessee enacted legislation requiring local plans to identify boundaries for urban growth in each city, areas that can be allowed to grow and areas that should be kept rural. All land use decisions made by a county or municipality are required to be consistent with the growth plan. After July 1, 2001, state economic development and infrastructure financial assistance will not be available to counties and municipalities that do not have approved growth plans.

Did You Know?.....



Maine received its name from efforts to distinguish its mainland from the offshore islands, while also honoring Henrietta Maria, Queen of Charles I of England, who is believed to have owned the French province of Mayne.

Recent Legal Developments



The Supreme Court Rules on the FDA's Right to Regulate the Tobacco Industry

The three-year legal battle between tobacco manufacturers and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) over the federal agency's right to regulate tobacco products¹ recently came to an end. The Supreme Court ruled on March 21, 2000 (FDA v. Brown & Williamson, No. 98-1152) that the FDA lacks legal authority to regulate tobacco products. The ruling supports the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals decision in August of 1998 (Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corporation v. FDA, 153 F. 3d 155).



The FDA Classifies Tobacco as a Drug

In 1996, the FDA adopted rules providing the agency with the authority to regulate tobacco products, a reversal of its former position that it lacked the statutory authority to regulate tobacco as a drug. The FDA concluded that: (1) new evidence pointing to the detrimental effects of nicotine on the human body substantiated tobacco products being classified as drugs and (2) this effect was deliberate because the tobacco industry was manipulating its product to have intentional effects on smokers. The FDA published a new rule in August of 1996 entitled "Regulations Restricting the Sale and Distribution of Cigarettes and Smokeless Tobacco to Protect Children and Adolescents." The FDA rule was designed to prevent the targeting of minors by tobacco companies in the sale and distribution of tobacco products, as well as in the advertising and promotional techniques used for these products.

¹ Reference to tobacco products includes cigarettes and smokeless tobacco products.

The Tobacco Industry Response

Immediately following the adoption of the FDA rule, tobacco manufacturers, convenience store retailers, and advertisers sued the FDA in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina, asserting that the FDA did not have the authority to regulate tobacco products (*Coyne Beahm v. FDA*, 966 F. Supp. 1374). The plaintiffs argued that the FDA had overstepped its boundaries on two counts: (1) the FDA was regulating a product without congressional approval and (2) the FDA's decision to classify tobacco products as "drugs" and "devices" under the definitions within the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FDCA) was not valid (21 U.S.C.A. § 301).²

The U.S. District Court ruled that it was not Congress' intent to prohibit the FDA from regulating tobacco products and that the guidelines within the FDCA substantiated the FDA's authority in this area. However, the court also ruled that the regulation of advertising used to promote tobacco products was outside of the scope of the FDA's authority. The parties appealed the U.S. District Court's decision to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Determining the Extent of the FDA's Regulatory Authority

The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals decided the appeal on August 14, 1998 (*Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corporation v. FDA*, 153 F. 3d 155). The Court found fault with the FDA's determination that tobacco products fit under the definitions of "drugs" and "devices" as specified in the FDCA. The FDA had claimed that tobacco products are "*intended to affect the structure [or function] of the body*" and that tobacco is "a combination product consisting of nicotine, a drug that causes addiction and other significant pharmacological effects on the human body." While the FDA stated that tobacco products could be defined as "drugs," the FDA concluded that they were more properly regulated as a "device that delivers nicotine to the body."

Although the Court did not dispute the FDA's evidence demonstrating the health risks associated with tobacco products, it found that the agency's mission did not support its regulation. The FDA's regulatory

mission is to protect the public health by ensuring that drugs on the market are "safe and effective," providing the public with a "reasonable assurance of the safety and effectiveness of devices intended for human use." If the public cannot be granted that assurance, or the assurance that a product's health benefits outweigh its risks (e.g., certain experimental cancer drugs) then the products are to be taken off the market.

The FDA's justification for leaving tobacco products on the market was to prevent the large percentage of the public currently addicted to nicotine from experiencing extreme withdrawal symptoms. However, the Court found that the agency's charge was to evaluate whether or not the health benefits of tobacco use outweighed the health risks, not simply determining the risk of removing a product from the market. While the Court recognized that removing these products from the market could have a serious impact on the country's economy, the Court felt that only Congress could make such a determination.

The Appeals Court Cites Congressional Action on Tobacco Regulation

The Appeals Court found that there was significant evidence pointing to the desire of Congress to maintain regulatory control over tobacco products. The Court determined that over the years Congress has been made aware of the FDA's concern over its lack of jurisdiction in this area and its position that the FDCA did not provide sufficient authority for the agency to include tobacco products within their jurisdiction. Despite these appeals, between 1965 and 1993 Congress failed to enact any of the thirteen bills that would have granted the FDA jurisdiction in this area.

Following the Surgeon General's report on the dangers of smoking in January of 1964, Congress responded by enacting the *Federal Cigarette Labeling and Advertising Act*, which required tobacco manufacturers to place health warnings on all of their products, as well as on all advertisements and billboards. The *Cigarette Labeling and Advertising Act* was set to expire in June of 1969, yet Congress reenacted the Act with some further restrictions in the *Public Health Cigarette Smoking Act of 1969*. In 1983, the *Alcohol and Drug Abuse Amendments* were passed by Congress, which required the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS), the FDA's parent agency, to report back to Congress every three years with an update on new findings related to nicotine and tobacco products, as well as any proposed legislation that may be necessary. The Court found these Acts to support

² Under the FDCA, the FDA has the authority to regulate products that fall under the categories of food, drugs, devices, and cosmetics.

the belief that Congress was retaining its control over tobacco products.

In light of the historical Congressional debate and legislation, the Court found the intent of Congress to be to maintain control over tobacco regulation and its effects on the nation's commerce and that Congress did not intend to place tobacco regulation under the FDA's jurisdiction. The Court ruled that the FDA overstepped its authority, thus reversing the U.S. District Court's earlier decision.

The Supreme Court Rules that the FDA Lacks Authority to Regulate Tobacco

The FDA petitioned the Supreme Court to review the Appeals Court decision. The Supreme Court granted the FDA certiorari on April 26, 1999 and the case was argued on December 1, 1999 (FDA v. Brown & Williamson, No. 98-1152). The Supreme Court ruled 5-4 on March 21, 2000 in favor of the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals' decision. The Court stated that Congress never intended to provide the FDA with jurisdiction over an issue of such "economic and political magnitude." Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, writing for the majority, stated that while the Court does not doubt that tobacco products are hazardous to the public's health, an "administrative agency's power to regulate must always be grounded in a valid grant of authority from Congress."

Immediately following the Supreme Court decision, both House and Senate leaders introduced legislation in Congress that would provide the FDA with some degree of jurisdiction over tobacco products. Congressional committees are currently considering these various bills.

options for health care services, including the impact of such options on costs and utilization. The Commission will issue a comprehensive report with recommendations to the Governor by November 1, 2000. The Commission terminates on December 31, 2000.

2. Executive Order #3, An Order Confirming Initiative Protocol of Administrative Rulemaking, establishes procedures for agencies to follow when conducting rulemaking. The following written explanations must be presented to the Governor prior to proposing rules or regulations:

1. The legal requirement for adopting the rule or regulation;
2. Whether the proposed rule or regulation protects against a direct and immediate threat to the public health, safety or welfare;
3. An analysis of the costs of the rule or regulatory initiative to the State as well as the cost to, and competitive impact on, the regulated community; and
4. Whether the rule is generated by a stakeholder or agency-oriented process.

3. Executive Order #4, An Order Establishing a State of Maine Emergency Response Team as a Part of Maintaining a Comprehensive State Emergency Preparedness Plan, establishes the State Emergency Response Team to: 1) assist in the preparation of a comprehensive State Emergency Preparedness Plan; 2) respond to area or statewide emergencies by reporting to the State Emergency Operations Center in order to coordinate the efforts of respective state agencies; and 3) assist in appropriate recovery efforts. The Emergency Response Team consists of Commissioners from the appropriate state agencies and is chaired by the Commissioner of the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management.



Executive Orders Issued

The following Executive Orders have been issued by the Governor in Fiscal Year 1999-2000:

1. Executive Order #2, An Order Establishing the Year 2000 Blue Ribbon Commission on Health Care, establishes a five member Commission to: 1) identify the cost elements of Maine's health care system; 2) determine the current allocation of costs and cost shifting among participants in the health delivery system; 3) recommend potential strategies for stabilizing overall health care costs; and 4) identify payment

Internet Intersection

Policy and Government



Social Security Administration: This site offers a vast library of social security information, including agency publications and fact sheets, current laws and the ability allows an individual to request a copy of their social security statement. <http://www.ssa.gov/>

Capweb: This site provides a direct link to Capitol Hill and includes access to the Congress, the Executive branch and the Judicial branch, the Library of Congress, roll-call votes, the Congressional record, bills and laws.

<http://www.capweb.net/>

U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission: This site offers access to Securities and Exchange Commission filings, rules and reports and also allows the user access to the Edgar database, which allows a search of SEC filings dating back to 1994.

<http://www.sec.gov>



Maine State Legislature: The State of Maine statutes, including the new laws passed in 1999, are now available through the Legislature's homepage. The website also includes access to current bill text, amendments and final disposition information.

<http://www.state.me.us/legis>

Law and Legislative Reference Library: Provides access to URSUS catalog, collections information, reference information, legislative history instructions and interlibrary loan information, and lists of Justices for the Maine Supreme Judicial Court and Maine Attorney Generals. The Library's website also includes an in-house index to NCSL Legisbrief, a two-page issue brief published by the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL). The website also offers the submittal of research requests via e-mail.

<http://www.state.me.us/legis/lawlib>



Technology

Northern Lights Search: This search engine allows the user to search the web, newspapers, journals, the U.S. government and also provides news updates and the ability for users to customize their research request..

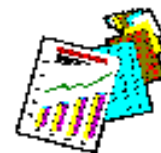
<http://www.northernlight.com>



Reference

Library Spot: This site is a virtual library resource center that offers a wide variety of links to libraries, reference materials, publications and lists. It also offers a feature archive section, virtual field trips and a newsletter.

www.libraryspot.com



General Interest

Megaconverter: This site offers an ever-growing set of weights, measures and units conversion/calculations. For just about anything you can think of, megaConverter can show you its equivalent. For example, the site allows users to discover things like how many seconds old they are, the difference between a gallon in the USA and a gallon in the UK, how many nanometers in an inch, and how many quarts in a caldron.

<http://www.megaconverter.com>

FinAid: This comprehensive financial aid information page offers a free scholarship search, financial aid calculators, financial aid applications and a glossary of terms.

www.finaid.com



Interim Studies

The following is a list of legislative and selected non-legislative studies approved by the Legislature for this interim. The majority of these studies are the result of legislation considered during the Second Regular Session of the 119th Legislature. Several of the studies listed are continuations of studies conducted during the interim between the 119th Legislature's First Regular and Second Regular session.

| Study Name | Report Date |
|--|-------------|
| Blue Ribbon Commission to Study a Comprehensive Internet Policy (P.L. 1999, chapter 762) | 12/6/00 |
| Citizens Advisory Committee to Secure the Future of Maine's Fish and Wildlife (Resolve 1999, chapter 86) | 12/15/00 |
| Commission on the Study and Prevention of Child Abuse (J.O. H.P. 1930) | 11/1/00 |
| Commission to Study Domestic Violence (Resolve 1999, chapter 126) | 12/5/01 |

| Study Name | Report Date |
|---|--------------------|
| Commission to Study Economically and Socially Just Policies for Foreign Investments and Foreign Purchasing by the State (Resolve 1999, chapter 135) | 11/15/00 |
| Commission to Study Equity in the Distribution of Gas Tax Revenues Attributable to Snowmobiles, All-terrain Vehicles and Watercraft (Resolve 1999, chapter 131) | 12/6/00 |
| Commission to Study the Establishment of an Environmental Leadership Program (Resolve 1999, chapter 134) | 1/15/02 |
| Commission to Study Kindergarten-to-grade 12 Educator Recruitment and Retention (Resolve 1999, chapter 130) | 1/15/01 |
| Commission to Study the Most Effective Method of Providing Retail Rate Reimbursement for parts and Labor (P.L. 1999, chapter 766) | 12/15/00 |
| Commission to Study the Needs and Opportunities Associated with the Production of Salmonid Sport Fish in Maine (Resolve 1999, chapter 82) | 9/29/00 |
| Commission to Study Ownership Patterns in Maine (Resolve 1999, chapter 136) | 11/15/00 |
| Committee on Gasoline and Fuel Prices (J.O. H.P. 1774) | 11/1/00 |
| Committee to Develop a Compensation Program for Victims of Abuse at the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf and to Continue Oversight of Multi-agency Cooperation (Resolve 1999, chapter 127) | 11/1/00 |
| Committee to Study Access to Private and Public Lands in Maine (J.O. H.P. 1951) | 11/1/00 |
| Committee to Study Further Decriminalization of the Criminal Laws of Maine (J.O. H.P. 1914) | 5/1/00 |
| Task Force to Reduce the Burden on Home Heating Costs on Low-Income Households (Resolve 1999, chapter 132) | 11/1/00 |
| Joint Select Committee on School-based Health Care Services (J.O. H.P. 1864) | 12/1/00 |

| Study Name | Report Date |
|--|--------------------|
| Joint Select Committee to Study the Creation of a Public/Private Purchasing Alliance to Ensure Access to Health Care for all Maine Citizens (J.O. H.P. 1857) | 12/1/00 |
| Joint Study Committee to Study Bomb Threats in Maine Schools (J.O. H.P. 1938) | 11/01/00 |
| Resolve to Recognize Veterans of the Vietnam War in the State House Hall of Flags (Resolve 1999, chapter 113) | 12/1/00 |
| Round Table to Study Economic and Labor Issues Relating to the Forest Products Industry (Resolve 1999, chapter 124) | 12/05/01 |
| Task Force on Educational Programming at Juvenile Correctional Facilities (P.L. 1999, chapter 770) | 11/1/00 |
| Task Force on the Maine Learning Technology Endowment (P.L. 1999, chapter 731, Part FFF) | 12/15/00 |
| Task Force to Study Growth Management (J.O. S.P. 1090) | 11/1/00 |
| Task Force to Study the Implementation of the Marijuana for Medical Purposes Law (Resolve 1999, chapter 137) | 10/1/00 |
| Task Force to Study Market Power Issues Related to the Solid Waste Hauling and Disposal Industry (P.L. 1999, chapter 773) | 12/5/01 |

If you have any questions concerning a particular study, please contact the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis at 287-1670.



OPLA PUBLICATIONS

- **Study Reports** - A listing of study reports of legislative committees and commissions categorized by year from 1973 on is available from OPLA. For printed copies of any of these reports, please contact the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis at 13 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333 (287-1670) or stop by Room 107 of the State House. The first copy of a report is free; additional copies are available at a nominal cost. In addition, many of the recent legisla-

tive studies staffed by OPLA are available on the OPLA website at:
<http://www.state.me.us/legis/opla/reports2.htm>

The following publications are currently available:

- **Enacted Law Summaries of the 119th Legislature, Second Regular Session:** Summarizes bills, resolves and selected joint orders passed by the 119th Legislature, Second Regular Session

A Word About OPLA

The Office of Policy and Legal Analysis (OPLA) is one of several nonpartisan offices of the Maine State Legislature. It operates under the auspices of the Legislative Council. The office provides professional staff assistance to the joint standing and select committees, such as providing policy and legal research and analysis, coordinating the committee process, drafting bills and amendments, analyzing budget bills in cooperation with the Office of Fiscal and Program Review and preparing legislative proposals, reports and recommendations.

OPLA~Notes

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Office of Policy & Legal Analysis

Director: David E. Boulter

Editor: Darlene Shores Lynch, Senior
Legislative Researcher

Article Contributors: Natalie Hicks,
Legislative Researcher, Darlene Shores
Lynch, Senior Legislative Researcher

We welcome your comments and suggestions.
Contact the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis by
writing to 13 State House Station, Augusta, Maine
04333; calling 287-1670; or stopping by Room 107
of the State House. The newsletter is available on the
Internet at: www.state.me.us/legis/opla/newslet.htm

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